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Amendments to the Claims:

The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1. (Previously Presented) An apparatus comprising:
a quality measurement circuit; and
a power control processor configured to tune a receiver to a first frequency during an initial portion of a first frame, to tune the receiver on a second frequency during a search excursion period, wherein the search excursion period begins during the first frame and continues through an initial portion of a second frame, wherein the second frame follows immediately after the first frame, to direct the quality measurement circuit to measure measuring at least one signal attribute on the second frequency during the search excursion period, and to tune the receiver on the first frequency during a remaining portion of the second frame;
wherein said power control processor is further configured to increase a target of E_b/N_0 of receiving signals over at least a portion of at least one of the first and second frames.
2. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the power control processor is further configured to direct a mobile transmission module to increase an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the initial portion of the first frame.
3. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the power control processor is further configured to direct a mobile transmission module to increase an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the remaining portion of the second frame.
4. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the power control processor is further configured to direct a mobile transmission module to increase an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the initial portion of the first frame and on the first frequency during the remaining portion of the second frame.

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5. (Original) The apparatus of claim 1 wherein the power control processor is further configured to generate a report indicative of a measurement of the at least one signal attribute.

6. (Original) The apparatus of claim 5 wherein the power control processor is further configured to provide the report to a mobile transmission module to be wirelessly transmitted on the first frequency.

7. (Previously Presented) A method for measuring signal strength in a wireless communication system comprising:

operating a receiver on a first frequency during an initial portion of a first frame;

operating the receiver on a second frequency during a search excursion period, wherein the search excursion period begins during the first frame and continues through an initial portion of a second frame, wherein the second frame follows immediately after the first frame;

measuring at least one signal attribute on the second frequency during the search excursion period; and

operating the receiver on the first frequency during a remaining portion of the second frame;

increasing a target of E_b/N_0 of receiving signals over at least a portion of at least one of the first and second frames.

8. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising increasing an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the initial portion of the first frame.

9. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising increasing an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the remaining portion of the second frame.

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10. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising:
increasing an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the initial portion of the first frame; and
increasing an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the remaining portion of the second frame.
11. (Original) The method of claim 7 further comprising generating a report indicative of a measurement of the at least one signal attribute.
12. (Original) The method of claim 11 further comprising transmitting the report on the first frequency.
13. (Previously Presented) An apparatus for measuring signal strength in a wireless communication system comprising:
means for operating a receiver on a first frequency during an initial portion of a first frame;
means for operating the receiver on a second frequency during a search excursion period, wherein the search excursion period begins during the first frame and continues through an initial portion of a second frame, wherein the second frame follows immediately after the first frame;
means for measuring at least one signal attribute on the second frequency during the search excursion period; and
means for operating the receiver on the first frequency during a remaining portion of the second frame;
means for increasing a target of E_b/N_0 of receiving signals over at least a portion of at least one of the first and second frames.
14. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising means for increasing an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the initial portion of the first frame.

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15. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising means for increasing an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the remaining portion of the second frame.

16. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising:
means for increasing an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the initial portion of the first frame; and
means for increasing an amount of power allocated to symbols transmitted on the first frequency during the remaining portion of the second frame.

17. (Original) The apparatus of claim 13 further comprising means for generating a report indicative of a measurement of the at least one signal attribute.

18. (Original) The apparatus of claim 17 further comprising means for transmitting the report on the first frequency.